



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA Declares Mariposa County a Disaster Due to Highway 140 Road Closure Into Yosemite

Sacramento, CA – Steven C. Preston, Administrator of the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA), declared an economic injury disaster due to the Ferguson Rockslide that occurred on Highway 140 on April 29, 2006 in Mariposa County. There is no estimated reopening date to traffic into Yosemite Park from Highway 140. Preston's action responded to a July 7 request from Henry R. Renteria, Director of the California Office of Emergency Services, on behalf of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

According to Alfred E. Judd, SBA's Field Operations Center - West Director, SBA's action makes available low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to small businesses experiencing adverse financial impacts caused by the road closure.

"SBA Customer Service Representatives will be on hand at the following SBA Disaster Outreach Center to issue loan applications, answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Judd said. The Disaster Outreach Center will be open on the following days and times:

Mariposa
Miners Inn Restaurant
5159 Highway 140
Mariposa, CA 95338

Mondays 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Tuesdays through Fridays 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Open Wednesday, July 26th through Friday, August 18th

"EIDLs are working capital loans and are available to small businesses in Mariposa County as well as the neighboring counties of Madera, Merced, Stanislaus and Tuolumne. Small businesses may qualify for EIDLs of up to \$1.5 million to help pay their fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact," Judd continued. The interest rate on these loans is 4 percent.

Businesses unable to visit SBA in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling toll-free **(800) 659-2955**. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. The deadline to return applications is **April 23, 2007**.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

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